

# Missouri Women in the Law.



MISS ELLA HARRISON,  
CARTHAGE.



MRS. ALMA SMITH, DODSON,  
SPRINGFIELD.



MISS ALBY MAY  
ANDERSON, PALMYRA.



MISS DAISY BARBER,  
ST. LOUIS.

MISS GARY MAY CARROLL,  
INDEPENDENCE.



MISS MARTHA HELEN HESS,  
MACON.

## WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

"The woman now may dare and do."  
And wield the pen and gavel;  
But the old man still must foot the bill,  
And keep on scratching gravel."

While the portals of history have been exceedingly rare, they have shown with great brilliancy. In this, the closing year of the Nineteenth Century, we find at least a dozen women lawyers in the State of Missouri, and the "tribe" and "cousins" of erring humanity. The step from stenographer to law clerk, and from law clerk into the actual practice is seemingly as easy for the woman as for the man. And she is showing the same capabilities and success at the law as has characterized all her invasions into the man's domain.

In the last four years the law schools at Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis have been turning out a sprinkling of girl lawyers, who are giving a good account of themselves now in the profession.

Judge Alexander Martin, Dean of the Law School at the State University, says of the feminine law student:

"Our experience with female lawyers has been a very pleasant one, and they have invariably taken rank above the average grade of their classes, and in most instances achieved high honors."

There is no denying the fact that no profession seems to bristle with more difficulties for the woman than that of the law. She has not only to overcome hereditary prejudice of public opinion, but she usually has to plead for parental sanction. Notwithstanding all, she claims to be as well qualified by nature for success as a legal advisor and advocate as man; if not called upon to fulfill the higher office of wife and mother.

Miss Phoebe Cozzens, the pioneer woman lawyer of the State, failed to achieve as much distinction at the bar as her bright and capable mind promised. It is thought she was diverted from her legal work by her efforts to advance the cause of Woman's

Suffrage. This bent of her mind manifested itself early in her career. When a pupil at the St. Louis Law School, Judge Martin recalls an interesting evidence of it in the following:

"On one occasion, when lecturing on domestic relations to a class at the St. Louis Law School, I announced the proposition that, according to the common law, when a man married he immediately became entitled to the rents of his wife's lands, to all her personal chattels and to the custody and control of her person."

"At this Miss Cozzens exhibited great indignation. She rose from her seat and asked me if that was not some of the barbarisms of the common law? I told her that I thought it looked that way, whereupon she sat down, with the satisfaction of the young lawyer who feels that he has scored a point."

Some of the most prominent and successful of these women attorneys, I shall let tell for themselves how and why they entered this profession.

Gary May Carroll, an attorney of Independence, Mo., who is highly respected by the bar of Jackson County, was the first girl lawyer to graduate from the State University. She says:

"The story of my life is the same old story of a slender income, large family, devoted parents and a pious childhood. I was born in Independence, Mo., October 15, 1872. At the age of 11 I was prepared to enter any of the large Eastern colleges, but finances being low I studied short-hand and soon entered a law office in Independence at the nominal salary of \$10 per month. As my ability increased my salary increased. At the age of 20 I was earning \$20 a month. Seeing that I had about reached the top-notch salary paid the average law clerk, I devoted my evenings to studying law for the next two years."

"In 1895, against the wishes of my friends and counselors, I packed my trunk, borrowed \$50 and started for Columbia. My reception by the faculty was not very cordial,

but before the year closed I could count them all my warm personal friends, as well as the men of the class of '96. On June 3, 1896, the degree of LL. B. was conferred on me, it being the first time that degree had been conferred on a woman by the Missouri State University."

"I returned and took my old position in the law office at Independence. One day, in conversation with some lawyers, they remarked: 'Were you a man, you could command a salary of from \$25 to \$300, but, being a woman, you can only demand the proportionate wages paid women.' I took issue on this question and resigned. I was optimistic enough to believe that the world had no special grudge against me because Mother Nature had seen fit to make me a woman. So again, contrary to the advice and wishes of my friends, who feared social ostracism for me, I started up my own law office and, to my great surprise, it has been a financial success from the very beginning. I have received the kindest treatment and encouragement from my brothers-in-law, and, judging from the quantity and quality of the invitations I receive, am not socially ostracized."

"I did not try a case alone until June, 1898. It was for divorce on the grounds of eight years' desertion. Yes, I number men and women among my clientele, but confine my active court practice to the women's side. My class of business runs to cases between landlords and tenants, collection of notes, estates, examination of titles, and unruly husbands and children—the last, of course, are woman's troubles."

"My only aim in practicing law is to make a livelihood for myself and those dependent upon me; and that that livelihood shall be made at no cost to my brother wage-earner. My ambition is to merit a standing among the honorable members of my profession, and that the members of my profession shall recognize the merit of that standing and not the woman."

Miss Carroll frequently goes out of town in her practice. Upon one occasion she encountered an old firm of lawyers at Trenton, Mo., but the sight of a woman lawyer to represent the woman defendant in a divorce case so unnerved these veterans that they pleaded inability to face two opposing ladies in the same case, so they took a non-suit."

Another woman lawyer of Independence is Mrs. Mabel Horstman. She is about 27 years of age and has one child. She acquired her legal education by hard study and practical work, and stood a very creditable examination, pitted against a number of male applicants."

Miss Daisy Barber, the successor of Miss Phoebe Cozzens in St. Louis, is well received at the bar, and enjoys the distinction of being the only feminine attorney practicing at the St. Louis bar.

Concerning her early life and preparation for the law, Miss Barber says:

"I was born in Atchison, Kan., in 1870, of Southern parents. They lived in various places in Kansas and Missouri, and in 1886 moved back to Atchison, where I finished a high school course in 1888. I taught school there two years, and then completed the college course, after which we moved to the State of Washington. I taught in the schools of Washington two years, and then came to St. Louis and attended the St. Louis Law School. At the close of the first year I attended the bar examination and was admitted. That was in 1895. I returned and was admitted to the bar the summer and fall of that year, but came back to St. Louis in time to complete the law course with the class of '96."

"Since then I have been practicing, and have had very good success. Most of my work is, of course, civil court work, and I do not, if I can help it, appear in the criminal division of our Circuit Court. I have had a few cases there. The men at the bar have always been kind and courteous to me, and my work is not made

any harder by the fact that I am a woman."

"I think the practice of law requires one's whole time and attention if one wishes to succeed. Of course, for a woman, it requires a certain amount of self-education, but, on the other hand, it has its pleasures and recompenses. My experience has been that a woman practicing law will never have occasion to complain of routine work or to want for variety in her daily occupations."

Miss Ella Harrison of Carthage, Mo., who is president of the Suffrage Association of the State, is a bright and promising lawyer with legal honors. She is in an office with her father and brother, doing stenography and typewriting and much of the office work.

"I decided to study law years ago, but it did not meet the favor of my family. Looking determination, I dilly-dallied along until now I have given up almost everything to make it a success."

"I graduated from the High School of our town some years ago. Since then I have spent four years in college—two in Iowa, one at Stanford, in California, and again one in the law department of the State University of Iowa, where I passed all the studies given, and would have graduated from there this year had not circumstances prevented my return."

"I find that men are cordial to all women who enter the profession. Whether this is from instinct or because they feel that we can do little to injure their chances, I cannot say. But I do feel that women who enter the profession are safer, so far as bread and butter go, than those who trust to being employed. There is nothing in the practice of law that should be distasteful to a woman."

One of the youngest women lawyers in the State is Martha Helen Hess of Macon, Mo. She is 22 years old, but the eldest of a family of six girls. Her father, Dr. P. Hess, is one of the oldest lawyers in Macon County.

In conversation with her I learned that she had taken up the profession because she did not enjoy idleness. She had graduated with honors from the Macon High School, and the St. James Academy. And she was unwilling after years of hard school life to fold her hands and become a parasite.

"No, I did not hesitate to enter the field of law," she said, "because I had always been able to cope with my fellow students at school, and why should I fear them in business?" After overcoming the usual parental objections, she took a two years' course in the Law School of Chicago, and worked at stenography and typewriting in the meantime.

She is now practicing in the office with her father, and in addition to doing the legal office work, she assists in the management and editing of the Macon Citizen. She is clever and bright at reports and has repeatedly been solicited to plead cases in court.

Although started thus early in a business career, she has not relinquished any of her feminine ambitions. She freely confesses that a husband, a home and children are more attractive to her than fame or fortune.

Kansas City has two women lawyers, Mrs. Mary Lawrence and Mrs. Almira Archer. Mrs. Lawrence was formerly a Kansas school teacher, and was the first woman admitted to practice law at the Kansas City bar. She passed her examination with a class of nine men and was ranked second.

She says: "I have had a very ordinary experience since coming into the office as a lawyer. I attend to the office work while my husband does all the outside or court work. When I first entered the office I added my husband once or twice in the trial fee. When I told her what it would be of a woman, who came into my office one day to see about getting a divorce. After she had told me her story she happened to think she had better settle with me about the fee. When I told her what it would be she seemed dumfounded, and said: 'Why, Judge—will you get it for me for that, and I think you ought to get it for me for half price, as you are a woman.'"

Mrs. Almira Archer has an office to herself in Kansas City and is delighted with the profession. She is making a specialty of the criminal law and will shortly appear in a case before the Supreme Court of the State.

Last June (1899) the Misses A. Z. and E. E. Whitte, sisters, from Grant City, Mo., graduated at the State University from the

law department. They are both talented girls. The former achieved the honor of "valedictorian."

In the present senior class, which graduates next June, there is one young lady, Miss G. E. Woodside, daughter of Judge Woodside of Salem, Dent County, Mo. She received, at the end of her junior year, the Rollins prize for scholarship, which is given annually to the first member in rank of the junior class.

Mrs. Almira Archer of the firm of Dodson & Dodson at Springfield, Mo., thus accounts for her interest in the profession: "I was born and educated at Kirksville, Mo., and am a graduate of the State Normal School and the Richard Wagner Conservatory of Music at that place."

"I began reading law with my husband in the evenings when he would be looking up his cases, and became so fascinated that I decided to pursue the regular course as laid down in the statutes. Of all the text books I found Blackstone the most interesting."

"I was admitted to the bar in May, 1898, under Judge James T. Neville of the Circuit Court, and have since been enrolled in the Federal Court and the higher courts of the State. While making the law my special aim and a life profession, I still keep up my musical studies."

Mrs. Dodson is a member of the Springfield Wooded Club, and the contralto of one of the leading church choirs in the city. Miss Mary Anderson of Palmyra, Mo., comes of a family of lawyers. Of her reasons for entering the profession she says: "I was born, reared and educated in Palmyra. After my graduation from college I decided to choose some profession. From childhood I had been taught to understand and appreciate the law. My father, grandfather, brother, two uncles and several cousins were lawyers, and it was naturally my choice of profession. I had access to their law libraries, and studied for a year in the office of my father, and under his direction."

"In September, 1897, I took my examination before Judge Ely, the Presiding Judge, and was granted a license. Since then I have had my own office and am delighted with the practice."

Northwest Missouri is also supplied with the woman attorney. Miss Nettie Green of Monticello, Lewis County, has been admitted to the bar and is practicing there.

NELLIE BROWN SEBREE.

## A LITERARY CURIOSITY.

Poem of Thirty-Eight Lines Taken From as Many Authors.

Each line of the following poem is said to be a quotation from some one of the standard authors of England and America, and is the result of laborious search among the voluminous writings of thirty-eight leading poets of the past and present, says the Minneapolis Tribune. The number of each line refers to its author below.

- 1-Why all this talk for triumphs of an hour?
- 2-Life's a cruel summer, man's a flower;
- 3-By turns we catch the vital breath and die—
- 4-The circle and the tomb, alas, no high;
- 5-To be is better far than not to be;
- 6-Though all men's life may seem a tragedy;
- 7-But light comes, speak when mighty griefs are dead;
- 8-The bottom is far shallower whence they come;
- 9>Your fate is not the common fate of all;
- 10-Unminding joy, here, no man shall fall;
- 11-Nature to each allows her proper sphere;
- 12-Fortune makes folly her peculiar care;
- 13-Custom does not often reason overrule;
- 14-And throw a cruel sunshine on a fool;
- 15-Love well, how long or short permit, to heaven;
- 16-They were forgive most shall be most forgiven;
- 17-Sin may be clasped so close we cannot see its face;
- 18-Vile intercourse where virtue has not place;
- 19-Then keep each passion down, however dear;
- 20-Then pendulum betwixt a smile and tear;
- 21-Her sensual rancor, let faithless pleasure lay;
- 22-With craft and skill to ruin and betray;
- 23-Snor not too high to fall, but stoop to rise;
- 24-The masters grow of all we most despise;
- 25-Oh, then renounce that impious self-esteem!
- 26-Hiccup have wings and grandeur is a dream;
- 27-Think not ambition wise because 'tis brave;
- 28-The paths of glory lead but to the grave;
- 29-What is ambition? 'Tis a glorious cheat;
- 30-Only destructive to the great and great;
- 31-What's all the gaudy glitters of a crown?
- 32-The way of lilies lies not on beds of down;
- 33-How long we live not years, but actions tell;
- 34-That men live twice who live the first life well;
- 35-Make, then, while yet ye may, your God your friend;
- 36-When Christian worship yet not comprehend;
- 37-The trust that's given guard; and to yourself be true;
- 38-For live so low we can, yet die we must.

1-Young; 2-Doctor Johnson; 3-Pope; 4-Poetry; 5-Zeveloff; 6-Spenser; 7-Daniel; 8-Sir Walter Raleigh; 9-Lambert; 10-Southwell; 11-Comenius; 12-Churchill; 13-Rossetti; 14-Armstrong; 15-Milton; 16-Baile; 17-Trench; 18-Romerville; 19-Thompson; 20-Byron; 21-Simonds; 22-Grubbe; 23-Massinger; 24-Chewley; 25-Scott; 26-Whitman; 27-Walter; 28-Davenny; 29-Scott; 30-Whitman; 31-Whitman; 32-Whitman; 33-Whitman; 34-Whitman; 35-Whitman; 36-Whitman; 37-Whitman; 38-Whitman.

Little Turkey: "Mamma, where has papa gone? He seemed so happy because he was being fed so much and so well taken care of."

Great Actress: "That's an atrocious portrait! Is that the best you can do? Is there no way you can improve upon it? Suggest something!"

Old Widower (in an effort to propose): "Do you think Miss Blank, that you could learn to love me more than you do?"

His Housekeeper: "I'm sorry you ain't satisfied, but I'm doing the best I can on twelve dollars a month."—Ohio State Journal.

Weather Man: "It's going to be awfully foggy to-night."

Macrobiotic: "Then I'll rush out an announcement of another brilliant meteoric shower."—Memphis Scimitar.



DIFFICULT PHOTOGRAPHY.

This excellent photograph of the well-known St. Alphonsus "Rock Church" on Grand Avenue was taken under conditions which will render the taking of another equally as good an extremely difficult, if not impossible, achievement. At present there is no point of vantage from which so admirable and correct a view may be had, for the spot in which the photographer's camera stood has given way to a building.



DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE?

There are few residents of St. Louis who have not at some time or other viewed this pretty spot. If taken to the place blindfolded and the bandage were suddenly removed from the eyes, it is safe to say the average St. Louisian would be able immediately to recognize and name the locality in which he under the circumstances found himself.

For the benefit of out-of-town readers of The Sunday Republic it may be said that the photograph is of one of the prettiest and most admired bits of scenery in the St. Louis Fair Grounds.